

SAN DIEGO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT



Use of Force/Internal Affairs Statistical Report 2014

William D. Gore, Sheriff
Ed Prendergast, Undersheriff

Introduction

Law enforcement agencies across the nation are collecting use of force statistics in order to review and analyze the reasonableness of force being used by officers. The San Diego County Sheriff's Department is committed to reviewing use of force incidents from multiple perspectives, including training, tactics, policies, procedures, and equipment use with the ultimate goal of identifying problem areas, applying appropriate corrective solutions and making improvements.

Enforcement of the law and the performance of law enforcement duties may require the use of physical force and/or physical restraint. The preservation of order and the observance of the law are best achieved through voluntary compliance rather than force or compulsion. The higher the level of public voluntary compliance and cooperation, the less need for force. To that end, the use of force must always be considered secondary to the desirability of voluntary compliance. When the need for the use of force arises, deputies may use objectively reasonable force to effect an arrest, prevent escape, overcome resistance, or in self-defense or defense of others. It is the responsibility of the Department and all sworn personnel to ensure force and restraint are used in a manner that not only provides for the greater public safety, but provides for officer safety as well.

The Sheriff and the Undersheriff, in their continuous efforts to improve organizational transparency, are making these statistics available to the public on an annual basis. The first part of this report contains the use of force data for the years 2013 and 2014. This collection of data includes the use of all types of force by members of the Department. The Department believes that by providing this information to the public, it will clearly show how infrequently deputies use force when compared to the number of calls for service and deputy initiated activities.

The second part of this report contains statistical information from the Internal Affairs Unit. Internal Affairs is the central controlling point for investigating complaints of alleged employee misconduct. The Internal Affairs Unit prides itself in its ability to conduct fair, thorough and impartial internal investigations. This collection of data includes the number, types and disposition of investigations. The Department believes that by providing this information to the public, it will clearly show that the Sheriff holds his personnel accountable for their actions.

These findings are published annually and posted to the Department's web site. They are also available for review at the John F. Duffy Administrative Center, 9621 Ridgeway Court, San Diego, CA 92123.

Division of Inspectional Services-Use of Force Statistics

Overall Activity and Use of Force Incidents

Before presenting the use of force data, it is important to understand the mechanism by which a deputy gets involved in a use of force incident. A deputy either responds to a call for service or makes an observation requiring action. It is important to look at the overall Department activity compared to the number of force incidents.

Overall Department activity is categorized and tracked as either calls for service or deputy initiated activity. A call for service is a request from a member of the public or another agency for public safety services. Deputy initiated activity results from a deputy's own initiative or observation and does not require a request from the public or another agency. Examples include: traffic stops, field interviews, transports, or other situations observed by the deputy.

Another category of statistics that is worth looking at and comparing with is the number of arrests that are made. Making an arrest is an activity that is considered to pose a high risk/high frequency of potential harm to the deputy due to the subject's resistance during the encounter.

The following table compares overall activity and arrests with total number of use of force incidents. Use of Force totals merely reflect the numbers of incidents force was used. The number does not reflect multiple uses of force occurring within the same incident.

Sheriff's Department Activity 2013-2014

	2013	2014	2013-2014 % Increase/Decrease
Calls for Service	272,607	279,857	+2.7%
Deputy Initiated	237,488	235,930	-0.7%
Total Activity	510,095	515,787	+1.1%
Number of Arrests	29,262	30,112	+2.9%
Use of Force	3,277	3,266	-0.3%

The data reflects that in both 2013 and 2014, **0.6%** of the overall Sheriff's Department activity resulted in a use of force incident. The data also reflects that in both 2013 and 2014, **11%** of arrests resulted in a use of force incident.

In 2014, there were **3,266** use of force incidents reported; compared to **3,277** use of force incidents reported in 2013. Overall, there was a **-0.3%** decrease in incidents between 2013 and 2014. Arrests increased by **+2.9%** in 2014.

Use of Force Data

The following table depicts the uses of force by the Sheriff's Department. The table combines the statistical data for the Law Enforcement Bureau, the Detention Services Bureau, and the Court Services Bureau. Please note that the use of force totals may include scenarios when several uses of force were utilized during one incident and on the same suspect.

Sheriff's Department Use of Force 2013-2014

Force Option	Times Used		% of Total Uses of Force	
	2013	2014	2013	2014
Hands on Control	1,881	1,993	47%	51%
Spit Sock	174	219	4%	6%
Impact Weapons	62	58	2%	1%
Forcible Stop	1	-	0%	0%
Pro-Strait Chair	21	17	1%	0%
Less Lethal (Other than Taser) Deployed	481	425	12%	11%
Taser (Deployed)	235	239	6%	6%
Guns (Displayed)	1,083	941	27%	24%
Lethal Force (No hit)	1	-	0%	0%
Lethal Force (Hit)	3	2	0%	0%
Canine	41	45	1%	1%
Total Uses	3,983	3,939	100%	100%
Total Overall Increase/Decrease	-1%			

Use of Force by Bureau

The following tables provide a breakdown of uses of force by bureau.

Law Enforcement Services Bureau 2013-2014

The Law Enforcement Services Bureau provides law enforcement services to nine contract cities and the unincorporated areas of San Diego County.

Law Enforcement Services Bureau 2013-2014

Force Option	Times Used		% of Total Uses of Force	
	2013	2014	2013	2014
Hands on Control	1,020	1,097	40%	44%
Spit Sock	76	77	3%	3%
Impact Weapons	52	51	2%	2%
Forcible Stop	1	-	0%	0%
Pro-Straight Chair	-	-	0%	0%
Less Lethal (Other than Taser) Deployed	127	133	5%	5%
Taser (Deployed)	160	182	6%	7%
Guns (Displayed)	1,080	934	42%	37%
Lethal Force (No hit)	1	-	0%	0%
Lethal Force (Hit)	2	2	0%	0%
Canine	40	44	2%	2%
Total Uses	2,559	2,520	100%	100%
Total Overall Increase/Decrease	-1.5%			

Detention Services Bureau 2013-2014

The Detention Services Bureau operates seven detention facilities providing services to those incarcerated in San Diego County.

Force Option	Times Used		% of Total Uses of Force	
	2013	2014	2013	2014
Hands on Control	802	840	59%	62%
Spit Sock	94	134	7%	10%
Impact Weapons	10	7	1%	1%
Forcible Stop	0	-	0%	0%
Pro-Straight Chair	21	17	2%	1%
Less Lethal (Other than Taser) Deployed	352	292	26%	22%
Taser (Deployed)	72	53	5%	4%
Guns (Displayed)	1	4	0%	0%
Lethal Force (No hit)	0	-	0%	0%
Lethal Force (Hit)	0	-	0%	0%
Canine	1	1	0%	0%
Total Uses	1,353	1,348	100%	100%
Total Overall Increase/Decrease	-0.4%			

Court Services Bureau 2013-2014

The Court Services Bureau provides court security services for the nine courthouse facilities operating within San Diego County, as well as the County Administration Center.

Force Option	Times Used		% of Total Uses of Force	
	2013	2014	2013	2014
Hands on Control	59	56	83%	79%
Spit Sock	4	8	6%	11%
Impact Weapons	0	-	0%	0%
Forcible Stop	0	-	0%	0%
Pro-Straint Chair	0	-	0%	0%
Less Lethal (Other than Taser) Deployed	2	-	3%	0%
Taser (Deployed)	3	4	4%	6%
Guns (Displayed)	2	3	3%	4%
Lethal Force (No hit)	0	-	0%	0%
Lethal Force (Hit)	1	-	1%	0%
Canine	0	-	0%	0%
Total Uses	71	71	100%	100%
Total Overall Increase/Decrease	No Change			

Definitions of Force Options

Hands on Control includes grab, push or pull, control holds, pressure points, and carotid restraint technique.

Spit Sock is a tool that is used on subjects who are spitting as a means of assaulting or attacking a deputy or other person.

Impact Weapons include the use of batons, saps, and flashlights as a means of delivering a strike to a subject.

Forcible Stop is the use of a Sheriff's vehicle to stop or control the movement of a vehicle.

Pro-Straint Chair is a restraining device used to control people who are violent and in need of maximum restraint.

Less Lethal includes the use of non-lethal chemical agents like OC spray and pepper ball launcher. Other less lethal weapons include the use of the bean bag, sting ball grenades, super sock, Nova Shield, Ultran II, and REACT belt.

Taser is an electronic control device that is effective for the temporary immobilization of subjects. The Department considers not only deployment of the Taser, but also the display of the Taser as a use of force.

Guns Displayed is the use of a firearm to hold a subject at "gunpoint".

Lethal Force, "No Hit" is the intentional discharge of a firearm that misses the intended target, dispatches an animal or impacts property.

Lethal Force, "Hit" is the intentional discharge of a firearm that causes death or serious bodily injury.

Canine is a tool that is used by a K-9 handler to apprehend fleeing subjects.

Internal Affairs Unit-Statistics

The Internal Affairs Unit receives complaints that are initiated by a citizen or by the department. Citizen initiated investigations are a result of complaints from the public. Department initiated investigations are a result of Department personnel alleging a violation of policy or misconduct has been committed by another member of the Department.

Internal Affairs complaint categories of misconduct: Unbecoming Conduct, Procedural, and Use of Force.

In those rare instances where the complainant was both the department and a citizen, the complainant is listed as the department.

Internal Affairs Investigation dispositions are as follows:

EXONERATED: Allegation is true but actions were lawful.

NOT SUSTAINED: Facts revealed do not substantiate the allegation.

RESOLVED: Case was closed as matter was resolved.

SUSTAINED: A true finding supported by facts.

UNFOUNDED: Not true. Actions alleged did not occur.

Internal Affairs Unit Overall Statistics

	2013	2014	2013-2014 % Increase/Decrease
Closed by Correspondence	361	327	-9%
Opened for Investigation:	97	187	+93%
All Complaints:	458	514	+12%

The increase in the amount of Opened Investigations in 2014, is due to the proactive measures taken by the Internal Affairs Unit

Investigations by Complainant

	2013	2014	2013-2014 % Increase/Decrease
Citizen	13	93	+615%
SDSO	84	94	+12%
Grand Total	97	187	+93%

The increase in the amount of Opened Investigations in 2014, is due to the proactive measures taken by the Internal Affairs Unit

Internal Affairs Statistics by Bureau

The following tables reflect Internal Affairs statistics by bureau. The Law Enforcement Services Bureau provides law enforcement services to nine contract cities and the unincorporated areas of San Diego County. The Detention Services Bureau operates seven detention facilities providing services to those incarcerated in San Diego County. The Court Services Bureau provides court security services for the nine courthouse facilities operating within San Diego County, as well as the County Administration Center.

Court Services Bureau by Complainant

	2013	2014	2013-2014 % Increase/Decrease
Citizen	4	10	+150%
SDSO	8	5	-38%
Grand Total	12	15	+25%

Detention Services Bureau by Complainant

	2013	2014	2013-2014 % Increase/Decrease
Citizen	4	34	+750%
SDSO	33	46	+39%
Grand Total	37	80	+116%

Human Resources Services Bureau by Complainant

	2013	2014	2013-2014 % Increase/Decrease
SDSO	2	6	+200%
Grand Total	2	6	+200%

Law Enforcement Services Bureau by Complainant

	2013	2014	2013-2014 % Increase/Decrease
Citizen	5	48	+860%
SDSO	37	35	-5%
Grand Total	42	83	+98%

Management Services Bureau by Complainant

	2013	2014	2013-2014 % Increase/Decrease
Citizen	0	1	--
SDSO	3	2	-33%
Grand Total	3	3	No Change

Unable to provide a percentage, due to "0" complaints received in 2013

Office of the Sheriff by Complainant

	2013	2014	2013-2014 % Increase/Decrease
SDSO	1	0	--
Grand Total	1	0	--

Internal Affairs Overall Statistics by Type of Misconduct

	2013	2014	2013-2014 % Increase/Decrease
Unbecoming Conduct	51	99	+94%
Procedural	33	66	+100%
Use of Force	13	22	+69%
Grand Total	97	187	+93%

Court Services Bureau by Type of Misconduct

	2013	2014	2013-2014 % Increase/Decrease
Unbecoming Conduct	9	10	+11%
Procedural	2	3	+50%
Use of Force	1	2	+100%
Grand Total	12	15	+25%

Detention Services Bureau by Type of Misconduct

	2013	2014	2013-2014 % Increase/Decrease
Unbecoming Conduct	17	41	+141%
Procedural	13	32	+146%
Use of Force	7	7	No Change
Grand Total	37	80	+116%

Human Resources Services Bureau by Type of Misconduct

	2013	2014	2013-2014 % Increase/Decrease
Unbecoming Conduct	2	4	+100%
Procedural	0	2	--
Grand Total	2	6	+200%

Unable to provide a percentage, due to "0" complaints received in 2013

Law Enforcement Services Bureau by Type of Misconduct

	2013	2014	2013-2014 % Increase/Decrease
Unbecoming Conduct	20	43	+115%
Procedural	17	27	+59%
Use of Force	5	13	+160%
Grand Total	42	83	+98%

Management Services Bureau by Type of Misconduct

	2013	2014	2013-2014 % Increase/Decrease
Unbecoming Conduct	2	1	-50%
Procedural	1	2	+100%
Grand Total	3	3	No Change

Office of the Sheriff by Type of Misconduct

	2013	2014	2013-2014 % Increase/Decrease
Unbecoming Conduct	1	0	-100%
Procedural	0	0	N/A
Grand Total	1	0	-100%

Internal Affairs Overall Statistics by Findings

	2013	2014	2013-2014 % Increase/Decrease
Exonerated	1	7	+600%
Not Sustained	13	31	+138%
Resolved	7	7	No Change
Sustained	58	41	-29%
Unfounded	7	27	+286%
Grand Total	86	113	+31%

IA OPEN CASES (On-going) *74

Court Services Bureau by Findings

	2013	2014	2013-2014 % Increase/Decrease
Exonerated	1	1	No Change
Not Sustained	0	1	--
Resolved	1	3	+200%
Sustained	8	4	-50%
Unfounded	2	4	+100%
Grand Total	12	13	+8%

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CSB OPEN CASES (On-going) *2

Detention Services Bureau by Findings

	2013	2014	2013-2014 % Increase/Decrease
Exonerated	0	3	--
Not Sustained	5	15	+200%
Resolved	1	1	No Change
Sustained	24	21	-13%
Unfounded	2	12	+500%
Grand Total	32	52	+63%

Unable to provide a percentage, due to "0" complaints received in 2013

DSB OPEN CASES (On-going) *28

Human Resources Services Bureau by Findings

	2013	2014	2013-2014 % Increase/Decrease
Resolved	0	1	--
Not Sustained	0	2	--
Sustained	2	2	No Change
Grand Total	2	5	+150%

Unable to provide a percentage, due to "0" complaints received in 2013

HRB OPEN CASES (On-going) *1

Law Enforcement Services Bureau by Findings

	2013	2014	2013-2014 % Increase/Decrease
Exonerated	0	3	--
Not Sustained	8	12	+50%
Resolved	4	3	-25%
Sustained	21	14	-33%
Unfounded	3	11	+267%
Grand Total	36	43	+19%

Unable to provide a percentage, due to "0" complaints received in 2013

LESB OPEN CASES (On-going) *40

Management Services Bureau by Findings

	2013	2014	2013-2014 % Increase/Decrease
Resolved	1	0	-100%
Not Sustained	0	1	--
Sustained	2	1	-50%
Grand Total	3	2	-33%

Unable to provide a percentage, due to "0" complaints received in 2013

MSB OPEN CASES (On-going) *1

Office of the Sheriff by Findings

	2013	2014	2013-2014 % Increase/Decrease
Sustained	1	0	-100%
Grand Total	1	0	-100%